

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 00678 151301Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /074 W
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O R 151235Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 643
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION SINAI

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E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV IS EG
SUBJ: PRELIMINARY REACTION TO POSTPONEMENT OF SECRETARY'S
VISIT AND DEADLOCK IN POLITICAL COMMITTEE

SUMMARY: THE NEWS OF THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE SECRETARY'S
TRIP WAS THE MAJOR HEADLINE STORY IN THE AFTERNOON
PRESS, FOLLOWING INDICATIONS IN THE MORNING PAPERS THAT
DIFFICULTIES WERE GROWING REGARDING THE AGENDA FOR THE
POLITICAL COMMITTEE. COMMENTS AND EDITORIALS ANTICIPATE
THE POSTPONEMENT WILL BE THE FIRST STEP IN U.S. PRESSURE
AND SAY THAT THE PEACE MOMENTUM IS LOST. THE SUBJECT
WAS DISCUSSED IN TODAY'S CABINET SESSION. THE PUBLIC,
WHICH CLEARLY HAD NOT EXPECTED THIS DEVELOPMENT, APPEARS
TO BE SOMEWHAT APPREHENSIVE. END SUMMARY

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1. POSTPONEMENT OF THE SECRETARY'S TRIP IS HEAD-
LINED IN BOTH AFTERNOON PAPERS AND REPORTS DISCUSS
THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH MUST BE FACED AND SOLVED
BEFORE THE MEETINGS OF THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE CAN
GET UNDER WAY. THE FIRMNESS OF THE EGYPTIANS ON THE
QUESTION OF THE AGENDA IS NOTED AND SOME REPORTS
SAY THAT ANOTHER MEETING BETWEEN SADAT AND BEGIN WILL

BE REQUIRED.

2. COMMENTATORS DESCRIBE THE SITUATION AS GRAVE AND SERIOUS, EXPRESS THEIR SURPRISE AT THIS DEVELOPMENT, AND FORESEE US PRESSURE TO RESOLVE THE MATTER. THE WELL-CONNECTED NAKDIMON IN YEDIOT AHARONOT QUOTES SENIOR POLITICAL CIRCLES IN JERUSALEM AS REACTING WITH ASTONISHMENT AT THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE, ALTHOUGH SOME CLAIM THIS IS ONLY A NEGOTIATION TACTIC OF THE EGYPTIANS. GUINEY WRITES IN THE SAME PAPER THAT, WHILE IT WAS ANTICIPATED THAT DELAYS AND DEADLOCKS MIGHT OCCUR, IT WAS NOT THOUGHT THAT A CRISIS WOULD DEVELOP BEFORE THE MEETINGS ACTUALLY STARTED. HE SAYS THAT US HELP MAY OVERCOME THE DEADLOCK, BUT "THE MOMENTUM FOR PEACE IS LOST AND THINGS MAY NEVER AGAIN APPEAR AS THEY DID TWO MONTHS AGO."

3. MAARIV EDITORIALIZES THAT JERUSALEM WAS SURPRISED AT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEADLOCK BECAUSE IT HAD THOUGHT THAT THE EGYPTIAN FIRMNESS ON THE AGENDA AND SADAT'S REMARKS IN HIS "OCTOBER" INTERVIEW WERE JUST TACTICS. IT HAS NOW BECOME CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT THE INTENT WAS TO PUSH THE NEGOTIATIONS TO THE STAGE OF CRISIS BEFORE THEY HAD EVEN FORMALLY BEEN OPENED. THE EDITORIAL ALSO NOTES THE WAY IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE WAS ANNOUNCED-- THROUGH THE AMERICAS--"PRESUMABLY IN ORDER TO PERSUADE THEM TO DO SOMETHING IN ORDER TO RESCUE THE SITUATION." A YEDIOT EDITORIAL DESCRIBES THE SITUATION AS "DEADLOCKED."

4. THE SUBJECT OF THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE DISCUSSIONS AND OF THE SECRETARY'S TRIP WAS THE MAJOR ITEM ON THE CABINET'S AGENDA AT ITS REGULAR WEEKLY SESSION TODAY (SEPTEL). THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS APPREHENSIVE. EX-PRESSIONS OF CONCERN HAD BEGUN TO SURFACE EVEN BEFORE THE POSTPONEMENT, AS IT BECAME MORE APPARENT THAT CONSIDERABLE DISAGREEMENT EXISTED WITH EGYPT ON THE AGENDA. AS A RESULT OF THE POSTPONEMENT, ISRAELIS NOW ARE FULLY AWARE, IF THEY HAD NOT BEEN PREVIOUSLY, THAT THE PROBLEMS WITH EGYPT REMAIN SERIOUS AND THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE DIFFICULT. LEWIS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ITINERARY, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, VISITS, PEACE TALKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TELAV00678
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780022-0528
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780161/aaaabzvm.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f59e63e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3772576
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRELIMINARY REACTION TO POSTPONEMENT OF SECRETARY'S VISIT AND DEADLOCK IN POLITICAL COMMITTEE SUMMARY:
THE NEWS OF THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE SECRE
TAGS: PGOV, IS, EG, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f59e63e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014